

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year



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The Council



SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for the YEAR ending DEC. 31st., 1945.

Medical Officer of Health: DR.W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR.R.H.DUMMETT, M.B.,Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.R.LUSHER, A.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1945.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 1,181.

Population - The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population -2,344.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to the Rate Books - 783.

Rateable Value - £21,266.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £82.

VITAL STATISTICS

|                            |     |        |     |       |     |
|----------------------------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|
| Live Births - Male         | 21. | Female | 19. | Total | 40. |
| Live (legitimate) - Male   | 15. | Female | 16. | Total | 31. |
| Live (illegitimate) - Male | 6.  | Female | 3.  | Total | 9.  |

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population - 17.06.

STILL BIRTHS - 1. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 24.39.

DEATHS - 36. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 15.35.

Deaths (from Puerperal Causes) - Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births - 25.00.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 32.25.  
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 6.  
Deaths from Measles (all ages) - Nil.  
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - Nil.  
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - Nil.

The conditions of occupation and of environment have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality. Salcombe is well known as a holiday resort and yachting centre. During the summer months - June to September - the population is practically doubled by the influx of visitors.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).



One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN - Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarlatinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district:-

|                 |     |                |
|-----------------|-----|----------------|
| Men's ward      | ... | 6 beds         |
| Women's ward    | ... | 6 beds         |
| Children's Cots | ... | 2              |
| Private wards   | ... | 2 (1 bed each) |

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL - None in the district, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

The arrangement referred to is provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63, of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

NURSING IN THE HOME - The Salcombe Nursing Association is doing excellent work.

No. of General Visits for the year were 2,158.

No. of Maternity Visits for the year were 406.

MIDWIVES - The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE - There is a Centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT. At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-Patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this district as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Close co-operation is maintained with the Devon County Council Health Visitors. The parent of every child in the district receives a birthday card for the child when he or she reaches 1 year, advising immunisation, the Health Visitor visits, follows up, and advises - every effort being made to get the child immunised. Frequent clinics are arranged in the district.

DIPHTHERIA. I would emphasise that in the treatment of Diphtheria, serum should be given at the earliest possible moment, and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.



Every attempt should be made by means of bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1945.

| <u>Disease</u>         | <u>Total cases notified.</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Puerperal Pyrexia.     | 1                            |
| Erysipelas.            | 3                            |
| Measles.               | 126                          |
| Pneumonia.             | 1                            |
| Dysentery.             | 2                            |
| Whooping Cough.        | 14                           |
| Chicken-pox.           | 2                            |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | 1                            |
|                        | <hr/>                        |
|                        | 150                          |
|                        | <hr/>                        |

The increased number of notifications of Infectious Diseases was largely due to the prevalence of measles in the district. The cases occurred chiefly in the months of May and June and were of a mild character.

AMBULANCE. For non-infectious cases and accidents, the St. John Ambulance Association provide an ambulance.

TUBERCULOSIS.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

| <u>Age Period.</u> | <u>New Cases</u>   |          |                        |          | <u>Deaths</u>      |          |                        |          |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
|                    | <u>Respiratory</u> |          | <u>Non-Respiratory</u> |          | <u>Respiratory</u> |          | <u>Non-Respiratory</u> |          |
|                    | <u>M</u>           | <u>F</u> | <u>M</u>               | <u>F</u> | <u>M</u>           | <u>F</u> | <u>M</u>               | <u>F</u> |
| 5 - 10 years       | -                  | -        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| 10 - 20 years      | 2                  | -        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| 20 - 25 years      | 1                  | 1        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| 25 - 35 years      | -                  | -        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| 35 - 45 years      | 1                  | -        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| 45 - 55 years      | 1                  | -        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| 55 - 70 years      | -                  | -        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| 70 and over        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |
| <u>TOTALS</u>      | 5                  | 1        | -                      | -        | -                  | -        | -                      | -        |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY (1) The water supply is obtained from the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board and is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

(2) 25 samples of water were taken during the year. At one period unsatisfactory results were received, the cause of which could not be found. Samples of water taken from the intake at Brent were perfect, and as the water is conducted in closed pipelines and reservoirs it was difficult to see how contamination could have entered the system. It should be remembered however that the pipeline was cut before D day and a booster used to get more water to Salcombe for Military purposes, and this appears to be the only possible explanation. Every effort was made to trace the source of contamination but with the exception of the above, nothing definite could be found. Finally the results of further samples showed that the impurities had disappeared and all samples taken since that time have been satisfactory.

(3) No trace of lead was found in chemical analyses.

(4) The water supply is chlorinated at the Board's works at South Brent.

(5) It is estimated that 98% of the houses are supplied from the public mains direct to the houses and 1% from standpipes and 1% from private supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. All the outfall sewers were repaired and the nuisance on the foreshore arising from broken outfalls was abated. Early in the year I presented a report to the Council on the sewage outfalls on the foreshore at Salcombe and recommended the Council to take the advice of a firm of consulting engineers. This problem was raised by my predecessor and I hope a satisfactory solution will be found when labour and materials become available.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The weekly collection of refuse was continued and no complaints have been received.

HOUSING. 3 preliminary notices were served during the year and the work was carried out by the owner in each case.

1.66 acres of land were purchased for the erection of temporary houses. 20 temporary houses were allocated to the district. Plans were in course of preparation for 12 permanent houses in Camperdown Road, and 5 permanent houses in Church Street. A number of families were re-housed in requisitioned premises. 7 requisitioned houses were handed over from the Admiralty and it was estimated that these would accommodate 15 families when converted into flats.

FOOD SUPPLY. Approximately 150 lbs. various foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

BAKEHOUSES. There are 4 bakehouses in the district.

MILK. Number of cowkeepers in the district - 7.  
Number of retailers in the district - 14.

SCHOOLS. There are three schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation at 2 of the schools is still very poor.

During the year 13 notices were received referring to 49 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows:-

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Measles | 48 |
| Scabies | 1  |

DISINFECTION. Disinfection was carried out after all cases of infectious disease.

|                   |                               |   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <u>NUISANCES.</u> | Number of complaints received | 8 |
|                   | Number of notices served      | 8 |
|                   | Number of nuisances remedied  | 8 |

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W.C.SMALES.

Medical Officer of Health.